



Notice of Public Hearing on Proposed School Street Project

Dear Residents and Property-Owners,

The Village of Merrimac will hold a **Public Hearing on Monday, September 9 at 7 pm at Village Hall** regarding a proposed project on the southern 1,100' of School Street, from Highway 78 to the northern boundary of the Merrimac Community School (MCS).

For several years now, **the Trustees and Village Staff have become increasingly concerned about the overall condition of School Street**, particularly in the area around the intersection with Church Street. As you're likely aware, the road narrows abruptly as you travel northbound, and there is no west side sidewalk all the way to MCS. Both pose a safety concern, especially during MCS events. During rainstorms, stormwater erodes the pavement and road base, and significant flows of stormwater wash that material down Church Street and onto residential properties. During wintertime, removal of snow further damages raveling pavement. Finally, this stretch of School Street is overdue for its regular maintenance of crack filling and chip sealing.

With the help of our engineer, the Village Board of Trustees have been evaluating several alternatives to improve School Street. At our August 14 Board Meeting, the Trustees unanimously agreed upon an alternative, which includes the following elements:

- Improvement of Pavement Condition
- Storm Sewer for Management of Stormwater
- Regrading of Some Driveway Aprons
- Some Street Widening
- Rolled Asphalt Curb
- West Side Sidewalk

The anticipated total project cost is approximately \$490,000. The project would be designed and constructed in 2025 and would be financed with approximately 5.5% interest loans, paid back over the next 20 years. The new debt payment would be about \$36,700/year. However, *this increased debt service is expected to be temporary.* In 2030, the 2009 Highway project debt will be retiring, reducing our debt service by \$48,400/year.

The Board proposes funding the Project's debt payments through the annual property tax levy. Table 1 shows how the School Street Project would affect our property taxes, starting this December. Six years later, our tax bills would then be *reduced*, due to the retiring Highway project debt. Keep in mind, the property tax impacts shown in Table 1 are for the School Street Project only. In this and future years, Sauk County, Sauk Prairie Schools, MATC, and the Village may have other debts and projects that would be put on the levy.

The Village Board will be holding this Public Hearing to provide information about the project and to assess residents' support for improving the safety and overall condition of School Street. We encourage you to attend. If you are unable to attend the Public Hearing, the presentation will be available on the website. If you would like your voice heard, please write us a letter or an email.

This is our opportunity to make long-overdue improvements to School Street, not just for us, but also for the kids and parents who all travel it hundreds of times per year. The Trustees and Staff are excited about the project and hope you are too. We look forward to seeing you on September 9 at 7pm.

Sincerely,

Andrew Gallus, President

Jennie Klecker, Administrator

Assessed Property Value	Increase in Dec 2024	Reduction in 2030
\$200,000	\$91	-\$121
\$300,000	\$137	-\$181
\$400,000	\$183	-\$241
\$600,000	\$274	-\$362
\$800,000	\$365	-\$482

Table 1 – Approximate Impact of Proposed Project on Individual Property Taxes

Note: the 2025 Budget Year is funded through the 2024 Tax Bills, printed this coming December